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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Yukio HEMMI et al.

Title: NUCLEAR POWER PLANT SYSTEM AND METHOD OF OPERATING
THE SAME

Appl. No.: 09/821,732

Filing Date: 03/30/2001

Examiner: Unassigned

Art Unit: 3641

RECEIVED
JAN 23 2002
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Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Submitted herewith on Form PTO-1449 is a listing of a document known to Applicants in order to comply with Applicants' duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56. A copy of each listed document is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicants do not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* art reference against the claims of the present application.

TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE

The listed document is being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR §1.97(b), before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits.

RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT

Document A1 relates to a power plant system employing a supercritical pressure light-water cooled nuclear reactor that includes a radioactive-material removing device (3) disposed between an outlet of the pressure vessel (2) and an inlet of the turbine system. (4)

In a BRW plant, it is advantageous to apply surface treatment to an existing device, such as a drier, for radioactive-material removing, in view of suppression of rise in differential pressure. Such surface treatment should have not only an ion-exchanging function but also a superhydrophilic property. In the inventor's opinion, Document A1 fails to disclose the above.

When providing a radioactive-material removing device in the supercritical plant, both suppression of rise in differential pressure and sufficient radioactive-material removing are necessary. Specifications of filters and filtering agents (e.g., the hole diameter of the filter, the particle diameter of the filtering agents, the thickness of the filtering layer) used for the radioactive-material removing device should be determined with respect to the above.

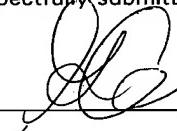
For suppressing rise in differential pressure in the above filter, the amount of particles due to corrosion of Fe in the nuclear reactor must be limited to as little an amount as possible.

An English translation of Document A1 is not readily available. However, the absence of such translation does not relieve the PTO from its duty to consider the submitted foreign language document (37 CFR §1.98 and MPEP §609). An English language abstract is attached.

Applicants respectfully request that any listed document be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO-1449 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

By  34371

Date JAN 17 2001

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